



THOMAS L. GARTHWAITE, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
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November 14, 2005

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer

Bruce Chernof, M.D.
Senior Medical Director

SUBJECT: **UPDATE ON CPR CARD INVESTIGATION AT KING DREW MEDICAL CENTER**

On November 8, 2005, your Board requested the Director of Health Services to report back to the Board in one week with a detailed plan of how the Department will ensure that caregivers at King Drew Medical Center have competent CPR skills including what steps the Department plans to initiate to improve the oversight and monitoring of certification courses in County facilities.

The Department has managed this issue aggressively since its identification. The Department developed and implemented the investigation in conjunction with law enforcement to maximize the quality of evidence such that actions can be taken at various levels including Departmental Human Resources, relevant professional Boards (nursing) as well as criminal charges, if indicated.

The administrative investigation is currently active and because of the requirements of criminal investigations, there is limited information that the Department can report at this time. Key facts to date include:

- The investigation was initiated immediately upon receipt of the original allegation.
- Given the need to collect all evidence and conduct investigation consistent with legal (criminal and administrative investigation) requirements, the Department felt that any release of information could damage the ability to complete and act on the results of the investigation.
- The initial administrative audit did identify irregularities in CPR testing and certification at King Drew Medical Center.
- DHS Audit and Compliance involved the Health Authority Law Enforcement (HALT) Team. They have been involved from the onset.

Actions taken or planned include:

- All employees whose CPR card has been signed by the instructor under investigation are required to demonstrate competence in performing CPR skills.
- Basic CPR testing is being arranged using instructors from other facilities to provide prompt, objective review as well as to allow current KDMC to focus on CMS preparations.
- American Heart Association will be notified about the results of the investigation.
- The Department's Audit and Compliance and HALT teams will work with the Auditor Controller, County Counsel and the District Attorney to file criminal charges if appropriate.
- Reporting to Clinical Boards (Nursing or others) will occur if indicated.
- The oversight and monitoring of CPR training classes is the responsibility of the American Heart Association. The Department will work with the local AHA to have them review the status of all training programs and instructors within the Department.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let us know.

TLG:BC:cb
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c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors